

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2325
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4328

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, XA, AF, IR, SA, US
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH HRH PRINCE ABDULLAH

1. ON JUNE 4 AMBASSADOR MET WITH SECOND DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER AND COMMANDER OF NATIONAL GUARD, PRINCE ABDULLAH
BIN ABDUL AL-AZIZ, AND PRESENTED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT
CONVEYING U.S. WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE THE MODERNIZATION
PROGRAM WITH SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD. ABDULLAH WAS PLEASED.
IN CONTRAST TO HIS LAST MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR IN MAY,
PRINCE ABDULLAH WAS RELAXED, EVEN BOUYANT. HE PRAISED
EFFORTS MADE BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ON BEHALF OF F-15
SALE. HE SAID CONGRESSIONAL DECISION TO PERMIT SALE WAS A
SUCCESS FOR PRESIDENT AND AMERICAN PEOPLE. DECISION
RELEASED ROPE THAT JEWISH LOBBY HAD PLACED AROUND AMERICAN
NECK. HE DESCRIBED HOW HE AND MANY OTHER SAUDIS
STAYED UP LATE INTO THE NIGHT BY THEIR RADIOS AWAIT-
ING OUTCOME OF SENATE VOTE. HE SAID THERE WAS GREAT
CELEBRATION FOLLOWING VOTE. THE OUTCOME ONCE AND FOR
ALL CLOSED PATH FOR ENEMIES OF SAUDI-AMERICAN FRIEND-
SHIP TO GLOAT THAT U.S. WAS NOT "REAL" FRIEND. HE
STRESSED THAT NUMBER OF PLANES WAS NOT IMPORTANT BUT
MORAL VICTORY WAS. HE CONFESSED THERE HAD BEEN ONE
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POINT IN TIME WHEN HE AND OTHER SAUDI OFFICIALS HAD
REGRETTED EVER ASKING FOR F-15'S. WHEN IT LOOKED AS
IF WE WERE LOSING, WE WERE FACED WITH POSSIBILITY OF
APPEARING AS FOOLS IN FRONT OF OUR PEOPLE; BUT VICTORY
REMOVED DOUBTS WHICH OUR PEOPLE HAD IN PLACING
OUR TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP IN U.S.

2. PRINCE ABDULLAH THEN TURNED TO AFRICA. HE PRAISED U.S. REACTION TO CUBANS AND RUSSIANS IN ZAIRE. HE SAID SAUDIS ARE NOW LOOKING AT U.S. IN DIFFERENT WAY. BEFORE, WE APPEARED BLINDFOLDED AND ALLOWED RUSSIANS TO DO WHATEVER THEY WISHED IN AFGHANISTAN AND SOUTH YEMEN. NOW U.S. HAS CHANGED. THE U.S. WE KNOW AND LIKE IS A STRONG U.S. THAT STANDS UP IN FACE OF COMMUNISM.

3. PRINCE ABDULLAH ASKED AMBASSADOR FOR OUR VIEW OF NEW LEADERSHIP IN AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID NEW LEADERS HAD WRITTEN TO CONVINCE SAG THAT THEY WERE TRUE MOSLEMS, NOT COMMUNISTS. HE SAID THEY DENIED EMPHATICALLY THAT THEY ARE INVOLVED WITH SOVIETS. PRINCE CONFIDED THAT SAG DID NOT BELIEVE THEM AND DID NOT TRUST MOTIVES OF NEW LEADERS. ABDULLAH ALSO EXPRESSED SAG CONCERN FOR SHAH OF IRAN HE SAID COMMUNISTS ARE STIRRING UP TROUBLE IN IRAN TO TOPPLE SHAH AND THAT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO SHAH, WHOLE GULF AREA WOULD BE IN GREAT DANGER. AMBASSADOR ASSURED ABDULLAH THAT US. ALSO WAS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTS BOTH IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN AND THAT HE WOULD KEEP SAG INFORMED. WEST

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